



General Assembly

***Senate Joint
Resolution No. 54***

January Session, 2015

LCO No. 8287



Referred to Committee on No Committee

Introduced by:

SEN. LOONEY, 11th Dist.

SEN. DUFF, 25th Dist.

SEN. FASANO, 34th Dist.

REP. SHARKEY, 88th Dist.

REP. ARESIMOWICZ, 30th Dist.

REP. KLARIDES, 114th Dist.

SEN. WITKOS, 8th Dist.

***RESOLUTION EXPRESSING SYMPATHY ON THE DEATH OF
THOMAS J. HERLIHY, JR.***

Resolved by this Assembly:

1 WHEREAS, on Friday, May 8, 2015, the State of Connecticut lost a
2 distinguished former member of the General Assembly and devoted
3 public servant with the passing of Thomas J. Herlihy, Jr., at the age of
4 fifty-eight; and

5 WHEREAS, Tom was born on November 29, 1956, in Queens, New
6 York, the son of Thomas J. Herlihy, Sr., and Mary Herlihy; and

7 WHEREAS, Tom attended St. Mary's Elementary School in
8 Simsbury and was a member of the school's state champion basketball
9 team in 1969; and

10 WHEREAS, Tom graduated from Simsbury High School in 1974 and
11 from the University of Hartford with a Bachelor of Science degree in

12 Elementary Education in 1978; and

13 WHEREAS, Tom taught third grade at Squadron Line School in
14 Simsbury from 1978 to 1980 and thereafter worked at The Travelers
15 Insurance Company from 1980 to 1983; and

16 WHEREAS, Tom founded his own insurance business, T.J. Herlihy
17 Insurance, in Simsbury in 1983 which he owned until his passing; and

18 WHEREAS, Tom served as a member of the Simsbury Board of
19 Selectmen from 1987 to 1990, as a member of the Simsbury Board of
20 Finance from 1991 to 1996 and as its chairman in 1996, and as a
21 member of the Simsbury Insurance and Pensions Advisory Committee
22 from 1990 to 1996; and

23 WHEREAS, in addition to his service in local government, Tom
24 actively and generously gave back to his community as a coach for his
25 children's basketball, soccer and baseball teams, through his
26 involvement with the Simsbury-Granby Rotary Club and the Simsbury
27 Chamber of Commerce and as a member of the Board of Directors for
28 the Farmington Valley YMCA; and

29 WHEREAS, in 1996, Tom's love of his home town of Simsbury and
30 his passion for public service and policy earned him election as State
31 Representative for the 16th District; and

32 WHEREAS, in 1997, during Tom's first term as a legislator, he was
33 nominated by Speaker of the House of Representatives Tom Ritter, and
34 was ultimately selected by the State Legislative Leadership Foundation
35 to participate in the Emerging Leaders Program at the University of
36 Virginia's distinguished Darden School of Business; and

37 WHEREAS, in 1998, Tom garnered the overwhelming support of
38 the thirteen towns of the 8th District to win a seat in the Senate, a seat
39 he would hold until 2009; and

40 WHEREAS, in 2000, Tom was appointed deputy minority leader of

41 the Senate; and

42 WHEREAS, during his tenure in the Senate, Tom served as a
43 ranking member of the committees on Education, Energy and
44 Technology, Planning and Development and Children, and as a
45 member of the committees on Legislative Regulation Review,
46 Legislative Management and Legislative Staff Internships; and

47 WHEREAS, during his tenure in the Senate, Tom spearheaded the
48 efforts to provide thermal imaging equipment, used by firefighters to
49 "see" through smoke during rescues, for fire departments throughout
50 Connecticut for which he was honored by the Connecticut State
51 Firefighters Association with an Award of Appreciation; and

52 WHEREAS, during his tenure in the Senate, Tom was instrumental
53 in obtaining approval of the State Bond Commission for a grant to the
54 town of Avon for a much needed athletic field, despite a
55 postapplication change in location to protect wetlands; and

56 WHEREAS, during his tenure in the Senate, Tom helped secure
57 funding for the building of the Simsbury Meadows Performing Arts
58 Center, summer home to the Hartford Symphony Orchestra, host to
59 world-renowned acts and enjoyed by countless Connecticut families
60 since its opening; and

61 WHEREAS, during his tenure in the Senate, Tom assisted in crafting
62 a solution to the tragic 2005 fatal automobile accident on Avon
63 Mountain, ultimately leading to the construction of a runaway truck
64 ramp; and

65 WHEREAS, during his tenure in the Senate, Tom was unafraid to be
66 the lone voice of dissent on important issues or take a position at odds
67 with his party if he felt strongly about whether a policy was right for
68 his constituents or the State of Connecticut as a whole; and

69 WHEREAS, upon retirement from the Senate in 2009, Tom's
70 devotion to his community did not diminish as he once again served as

71 a member of the Simsbury Board of Selectmen; and

72 WHEREAS, Tom is fondly remembered by his colleagues in the
73 General Assembly, including good friends Senators McKinney,
74 Aniskovich, Roraback and Capiello, as "incredibly bright" and a
75 "strong advocate for his constituents" with a "great sense of humor",
76 "impeccable timing" and a "friendly and courteous demeanor"; and

77 WHEREAS, Tom is further so remembered as having a "deep
78 appreciation for the constituents he served that was clear and
79 unmistakable" and leaving an inspiring "legacy of unwavering
80 commitment to service"; and

81 WHEREAS, Tom is further so remembered as "an incredible
82 individual who was kind, warmhearted and always grateful to serve";
83 and

84 WHEREAS, Tom is survived by his daughters, Kaitlin Cambras of
85 South Orange, New Jersey, and Meggie Barrow of Chicago, Illinois, his
86 son, Sean Herlihy, of Los Angeles, California, and his former wife,
87 Janet Herlihy Russell of West Hartford, Connecticut; and

88 WHEREAS, Tom is further survived by his mother, Mary Herlihy of
89 Simsbury, Connecticut; and

90 WHEREAS, Tom is further survived by his sisters, Patricia Silva of
91 Suffield, Connecticut, Lynn Tilley of North Andover, Massachusetts,
92 and Doreen Cheverie of North Andover, Massachusetts, his brother,
93 James Herlihy of Wallingford, Connecticut, and several nieces and
94 nephews.

95 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Connecticut
96 General Assembly expresses its sincere sympathy and heartfelt
97 condolences on the passing of a distinguished former fellow state
98 legislator, Thomas J. Herlihy, Jr., whose death is a profound loss to his
99 family and friends, to public service and to the people of the town of
100 Simsbury, the towns he represented in the Connecticut General

101 Assembly and the State of Connecticut as a whole; and

102 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the clerks of the Senate and the
103 House of Representatives cause a copy of this resolution to be sent to
104 the family of Thomas J. Herlihy, Jr., as an expression of the high esteem
105 and affection in which he was held.